

Book Review: Exploring Python by Timothy A. Budd

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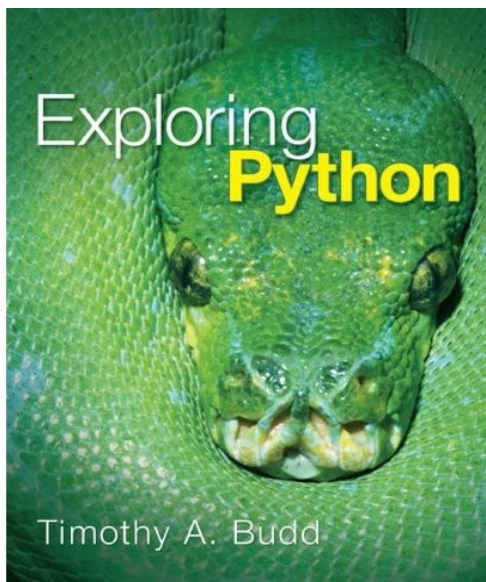
Author: Timothy A. Budd

Title: Exploring Python

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Higher Education

Year of Publication: 2010

ISBN: 978-0-07-352337-8



The striking feature about this book is that it does not read like a book. Instead, it feels like reading a lecture transcript – one that guides and leads the reader without losing the reader among technicalities. It almost brings the reader from a being computer-challenged and ending the book being Python literate.

Timothy accomplishes this feat by careful pacing of his contents, examples and numerous questions. Most of the illustrative examples were well-chosen in terms of beauty in demonstration, as well as usefulness. For example, the

sample Gestalt therapy program on page 82 is simple and elegantly captures the power of the language. If this is not enough, part 2 of this book is packed with useful case studies, such as a Sudoku solver, a simple blog and using XML to read an iTunes database. Very engaging.

The only thing I can pick on this praise-worthy book are some minor diagrammatic errors, such as the flowcharts on page 32 and 35.

Nevertheless, I am ready to toast Timothy on this well-written book that is suitable for students of all levels as well as a good bedtime read for experienced Python programmers. At only 278 pages, you can rest assured that the book is also very portable.